

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DPW-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 081153Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1958

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR.2 0(, IN

SUBJ: BHUTTO SHARPENS HIS REMARKS ON KASHMIR

REF: ISLAMABAD 9583

SUMMARY: PRIMIN BHUTTO SHARPENED HIS COMMENTS ON KASHMIR ISSUE DURING SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF HIS CURRENT AZAD KASHMIR TOUR, CASTIGATING INDIA FOR FAILURE TO HOLD PLEBISCITE AND CRITICIZING INDIAN-HELD ELECTIONS IN KASHMIR. HE CALLED ON PEOPLE OF INDIAN KASHMIR TO STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION BUT ADVISED THEM AGAINST WAR. MEANWHILE, OPPOSITION PRESS HAS CRITICIZED BHUTTO'S EARLIER REMARKS ON KASHMIR AS WEAKENING PAKISTAN'S STAND. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING SECOND AND THIRD DAYS OF PRIMIN BHUTTO'S CURRENT FIVE-DAY TOUR OF AZAD KASHMIR, HE APPRECIABLY STEPPED UP LEVEL OF HIS RHETORIC IN SERIES OF

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SPEECHES AT POLITICAL MEETINGS AND CIVIC RECEPTIONS.

HE DENOUNCED INDIAN MOVES TO PROVIDE AUTONOMY FOR KASHMIR AS A "TRAP" AIMED AT PERPETUATING ENSLAVEMENT OF KASHMIR PEOPLE. INDIA WAS COMMITTED TO HOLD PLEBISCITE IN KASHMIR, HE DECLARED, AND COULD NOT FULFILL THAT PLEDGE MERELY BY HOLDING ELECTIONS. GOI HAS, IN FACT, GONE BACK ON ITS PLEDGE BECAUSE IT KNEW KASHMIR PEOPLE WISHED TO JOIN PAKISTAN.

2. IN OTHER REMARKS, PRESIDENT ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE PERMIT SELF-DETERMINATION IN KASHMIR SHOULD BE MET BY WAR. HE HAD NOT BROUGHT MESSAGE OF WAR, HE CONTINUED, BECAUSE THREE PAST INDO-PAK WARS AS WELL AS LESSONS OF CURRENT MIDDLE EAST SITUATION HAD MADE IT CLEAR PROBLEM COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY WAR. AT THE SAME TIME, HE URGED KASHMIRI PEOPLE TO BE PREPARED FOR SACRIFICES TO HOLZIFIRMLY TO THEIR PRINCIPLES.

3. IN COURSE OF ONE SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 7, PRIMIN COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SAID NOTHING DURING HIS AZAD KASHMIR TOUR THAT WOULD WARRANT ANY PROTEST FROM INDIA. IF INDIANS NONETHELESS DID PROTEST, THEY SHOULD KNOW THAT PAKISTAN WOULD NOT BE FRIGHTENED.

4. NON-GOVERNMENT PRESS HAS CRITICIZED BHUTTO'S OFFER OF PROVINCIAL STATUS FOR AZAD KASHMIR, MADE ON FIRST DAY OF HIS TOUR (REFTEL). URDU LANGUAGE JANQ AND NAWETAI-WAQT BOTH EXPRESSED FEAR THAT ANY CHANGE IN CURRENT STATUS OF AZAD KASHMIR WOULD ADVERSELY EFFECT PAKISTAN'S CASE ON KASHMIR AND MIGHT ENCOURAGE INDIA TO CONVERT LINE OF CONTROL INTO PERMANENT INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY. SEVERAL OPPOSITION POLITICIANS HAVE VOICED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS.

5. COMMENT. SHARPER TONE OF PRIMIN'S MOST RECENT REMARKS MAY REFLECT AWARENESS THAT EARLIER MORE RESTRAINED COMMENTS PLUS PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AZAD KASHMIR INTO PAKISTAN WOULD BE SEIZED UPON BY DOMESTIC OPPOSITION. APPEARS THAT BHUTTO, TO SOME EXTENT, MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTING EARLIER REMARKS AT DELHI AND LATER ONES AT HIS HOME AUDIENCE. SOBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SELFDETERMINATION, SELFGOVERNMENT, REFERENDUMS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ISLAMA09682
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731147/aaaabiml.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ISLAMABAD 9583
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO SHARPENS HIS REMARKS ON KASHMIR
TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, (BHUTTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005